

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION,
CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES



JAMIE RASKIN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
AND CIVIL LIBERTIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
VICE CHAIR

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C., 20224

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig
Commissioner
Internal Revenue Service
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C., 20224

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Commissioner Rettig:

I write to urge you to extend the impending April 15th federal tax filing deadline. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has previously offered automatic filing and payment extensions during times of national disaster, and the devastation already wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic justifies filing extensions for millions of taxpayers, businesses and preparers.

On March 13th, President Donald J. Trump declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency under the Stafford Act, which gives the Treasury Department the authority to automatically extend filing and payment deadlines for up to one year pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 7508(a). Although I welcome your March 18th decision to automatically extend federal tax payment deadlines to July 15th, this action does not help taxpayers who need additional time to file their federal taxes. Many Americans depend on volunteer tax assistance at local clinics, libraries, and community centers, many of which are now closed indefinitely or face crippling staffing shortages. Additionally, tens of millions of Americans rely on tax practitioners for help with preparing returns. In order to ensure that taxpayers and preparers have enough time to gather documents and file their taxes, we urge you to provide an automatic extension to the filing deadline.

This automatic filing extension will provide critical relief for America's taxpayers, and would also help reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure to IRS employees who must report to work in-person to process tax returns as they are filed.

I hope that you will seriously consider extending the federal tax filing deadline to provide relief to America as we grapple with the unprecedented emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Raskin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "R".

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress